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Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02
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----------094191 290525Z /17
O R 290504Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 584
INFO USERDA HDQTS WAHSDC
USERDA GERMANTOWN, MD

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13172

FROM AMBASSADOR GERARD SMITH

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, ENRG, JA
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL WASTE MANAGEMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPAN

1. THE ERDA REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DELEGATION DISCUSSING TOKAI MURA TELL US THE JAPANESE HAVE APPROACHED BATTELLE REGARDING TECHNICAL EXCHANGES AND ASSISTANCE ON WASTE MANAGEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH REPROCESSING PLANT OPERATIONS.

2. IT MIGHT ENCOURAGE ACCEPTANCE OF OUR PROPOSAL REGARDING TOKAI MURA OPERATION IF WE TELL THE JAPANCES SUCH ACCEPTANCE WOULD ENABLE US TO AUTHORIZE TECHNICAL COOPERATION OF THE KIND THEY ARE INTERESTED IN. UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT OBJECTS WE PLAN TO SPEAK TO THE JAPANESE AUGUST 30 ALONG LINES OF FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS:

3. THE KEY TO THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF REPROCESSING PLANTS IN ANY MODE WILL BE THE DEMONSTRATION OF SAFE, PUBLICALLY ACCEPTABLE HANDLING OF NUCLEAR WASTS AND THEIR
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PERMANENT DISPOSAL. THE U.S. HAS EMBARKED UPON A MASSIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT NUCELAR WASTS CAN BE SAFELY HANDLED AND PERMANENTLY DISPOSED FO REGARDLESS OF RADIATION LEVEL, TRANSURANIC CONTENT, OR WHETHER THOSE WASTS ARE SPENT FUEL ELEMENTS OR RESULT FROM REPRECESSING. THIS BROAD PROGRAM IS NECESSARY IN THE U.S. EVEN THOUGH

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REPORCESSING HAS BEEN INDEFINITELY DEFERRED BECAUSE
LARGE QUANTITIES (70,000,000 GAL.) OF HIGH LEVEL WASTE
HAVE BEEN GENERATED IN THE PAST AS A PART OF THE ERDA
NUCLEAR MATERIALS PRODUCTION PROGRAM.

4. IT IS ERDA'S INTENT TO HAVE A BROAD TECHNICAL EXCHANGE
ON WASTE MANGEMENT OF COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR WASTE AS A PART
OF THE INFCE WITH COOPERATING NATIONS. THIS EXCHANGE
WOULD ONLY INCIDENTALLY INVOLVE WASTE MANAGEMENT RELATED
TO REPROCESSING. HOWEVER, IN THE EVENT OF A MUTUAL AGREE-
MENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JAPAN ON THE OPERATION OF TOKAI,
THE U.S. WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS
LEADING TO EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON RELATED
WASTE MANAGEMENT MATTERS, PERMISSION FOR JAPAN TO MAKE
ARRANGEMENTS WITH U.S. ERDA CONTRACTORS FOR TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTS, AND
EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL WHERE DESIRABLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WASTE DISPOSAL, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, TOKAI MURA, NUCLEAR SAFETY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO13172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770311-0279
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770811/aaaaaisb.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8a052250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1430400
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL WASTE MANAGEMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPAN
TAGS: PARM, TECH, ENRG, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8a052250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009